

REPORT

to the

Haltwhistle Rural District Council

For the Year 1959

by



J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STAFF :

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH. B., D.P.H. Prospect House, Hexham. Tel. No. : Hexham 245.	{ 	<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>
W. J. BLACK, M.A.P.H.I.	{ 	<i>Public Health Inspector</i>
Mrs. E. THOMPSON	- - - -	<i>Clerk Typist</i>

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The District is large and rural in character, and has considerable natural beauty and historic interest. The only town is Haltwhistle itself, the rest of the population living in villages, some of which are relatively isolated. The main industries are mining and quarrying, the manufacture of paints and chemicals, and agriculture. The reduced demand for coal has led to the closing of two mines in recent years, and the closing of more must be expected. This is already reflected in the list of persons engaged in various industries in the district. The Council are very much aware of the prospects of unemployment if one of the basic industries shall cease, and every effort is being made to attract alternative industry to the area. No results were obtained during 1959, but the efforts continue.

The population of the District is virtually stationary and the births only slightly outnumber the deaths. The statistics for births, deaths and infant deaths are close to the national average and call for little comment : they are summarised on page four. The two children who died in infancy did so in the first four weeks of life, and their deaths cannot be classed as preventable. The infectious diseases notified were confined to measles and scarlet fever, with one mild case of Paratyphoid. The 25 cases of scarlet fever occurred sporadically and were mild in nature and gave cause to no anxiety. Five cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, but there were no deaths : now that the main concern is the early detection of cases and since adequate treatment is available the disease is much less serious. Poliomyelitis is again absent and the extensive programme of vaccination carried out is likely to have contributed to this result.

During 1959, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company became the statutory water undertakers and the comprehensive scheme for South West Northumberland was begun, though Haltwhistle will not benefit in the early stages. Apart from the scheme to meet the needs of the larger centres of population, the Council have considered extension to smaller

communities, but some of these are likely to be prohibitive in cost. The very dry summer of 1959 led to considerable difficulty in maintaining an adequate and pure supply, the North Side supply suffering particularly. Chlorination of many sources had to be undertaken and gave satisfactory results.

The small sewage disposal scheme for Longbyre was completed during 1959 and a start was made with plans for a scheme at Melkridge. Just as it may prove quite uneconomic to take piped water to the more isolated communities, so it may prove impossible to give them sewage disposal facilities at reasonable cost. Each proposed scheme will however be considered.

With the completion of four houses by the Council during 1959, the building of new houses for general purposes is virtually at a standstill. It is however planned to build 32 one bedroomed flats, with a caretaker's flat and a communal room, and 16 of these flats will be specially adapted for frail old people. Haltwhistle has taken the lead in this part of the County in providing more sheltered accommodation and as well as easing the general housing shortage by freeing family houses it will allow old people to remain longer at home in comfort and safety. The establishment of two large caravan sites has been carried out satisfactorily, and the sites are well laid out and well run. The problem of caravan sites has been dealt with here by setting high standards of planning and public health before the site is approved. The occupiers of the caravans have been construction workers on a temporary stay, and while the caravan sites have not eased the housing shortage, they have not added to it. When there is little new building going on it becomes specially urgent to keep existing houses in occupation, and the Council have assisted many houses to be brought up to acceptable standard by means of improvement grants. Since the scheme began 175 houses have been so improved, and the value of the scheme in a rural district must be very considerable in keeping older houses in use.

This Annual Report continues a record of slow but steady progress in improving the amenities of a District where it is difficult to do so. The Council are aware of the needs as well as the difficulties and plan further improvements where and when these are possible.

I have to thank the staff of the Health Department for another year's efficient service. The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee continued to take an active interest in the work of the Department and I am grateful to them and to the Clerk and the other Officers for their co-operation and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1959 is 7,310, which is unchanged from 1958.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1959, was 2,377.

The rateable value is £61,945.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £230.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age.</i>
Coal Mining	579
Paint, Varnish and Chemicals ..	422
Distributive Trades	223
Agriculture	220
Professional Services	162
National and Local Government ..	150
Quarrying	99
Building Trades	198
Transport and Garages	148
Pipe and Brick Works	38
Bakeries	48
Miscellaneous	169

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District, estimated at 30th June, 1959, was 7,310.

Birth Rate

At 13.66 live births per 1,000 population, the birth rate shows a decrease of .56 on the figure for 1958. It compares with 16.5 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of a total of 103 live births, 2 were illegitimate. There was 1 still-birth, compared with 3 in 1958.

Infantile Mortality

There were two deaths of infants under one year, occurring in the first four weeks of life. The infant mortality rate is 19.42 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 22.0 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 96 deaths occurred during 1959, an increase of 20 on 1958. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 12.73 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.6 per 1,000 population.

13 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 14 in 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY.

Live Births						
Number	..	..	..	..	..	103
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	13.66
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births						1.94
Stillbirths						
Number	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	9.61
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	..	..	..	104
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	..	..	..	..	..	2
Infant Mortality Rates						
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	19.42
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	19.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	19.42
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	9.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	19.23
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)						
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

There was eight cases of Measles in contrast to 1 in 1958.

Whooping Cough

No cases were notified during 1959 compared with 2 in 1958.

Scarlet Fever

25 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during 1959, compared with 13 in 1958.

Tuberculosis

Five cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, as against 3 in 1958. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during 1959. The last case was notified in 1955.

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. Linton Snaith, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	G. J. Murray, M.D.
Matron :	Miss E. Robson.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Mondays and Fridays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist :—Dr. Walker.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

Second Friday every month at 2 p.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 2-30 p.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, NEW CASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS.

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.
Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.
Open Sessions :

Tuesday	..	..	2—4 p.m.
Wednesday	..	..	6—7 p.m.
Friday	..	..	6—7 p.m.

(b) INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Sanatorium.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service(a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside at the Haltwhistle Nurses' Home, Allenbrae, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m., and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

Child Welfare Service.

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Heath Visitor.

Clinics are also held at Gilsland and Halton-lea-Gate every fourth Friday.

School Dental Clinic.

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer :—Mr. Bodenham.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is run and maintained by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1959, 2,823 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents	..	29	Mileage Covered	..	1,024
Other Accidents		15	Mileage Covered	..	377
Invalids	..	314	Mileage Covered	..	6,329
					<hr/>
					358
<i>Car Sitting Cases :</i>	..	2,465	Mileage Covered	..	42,408
					<hr/>
Total Cases	..	2,823	Total Mileage	..	50,138
					<hr/>

The extensive use of this service is due to poor communications in the rural district and the necessity for transport from isolated places. As much as possible of the work is done by car.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.

Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street, Haltwhistle.

Hours : Wednesdays, Saturdays :—11 a.m. to 12 noon. Thursdays : 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

TABLE I.

the following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the years 1948—1959.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1950	15.52	13.65	60	.27
1951	14.10	12.25	37	.13
1952	14.02	13.89	38	.13
1953	14.35	12.36	—	.00
1954	13.36	11.84	43	.13
1955	14.56	13.22	39.6	.13
1956	14.27	13.20	30	.13
1957	15.20	12.71	28.57	.00
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ..	1	18	15	13	5	—	29	7	13	25
Whooping Cough ..	106	2	3	44	7	21	9	40	2	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
Measles ..	155	50	121	186	19	124	15	199	1	8
Pneumonia ..	3	4	5	7	1	—	—	11	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	9	6	—	5	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	8	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	268	83	157	258	36	162	54	257	18	34

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age. Periods	NEW NOTIFICATIONS						DEATHS					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births		Total	Live Births		Still Births		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1950	65	51	4	1	121	1	5	—	—	6
1951	54	53	2	1	110	2	2	—	—	4
1952	66	40	5	—	111	2	1	—	—	3
1953	58	45	1	5	109	4	—	—	—	4
1954	51	42	—	—	93	1	3	—	—	4
1955	56	45	1	5	107	1	—	—	—	1
1956	52	46	2	—	100	—	3	—	—	3
1957	51	54	2	1	108	2	3	—	—	5
1958	51	53	1	2	107	1	2	—	—	3
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	1	1	Legitimate ..	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	1	1		1	1
	—	—		—	—

TABLE VI.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH				1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	—	2	5	2	1	1	1	3	1	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	...	...	3	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	2	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	6	3	8	1	9	2	5	3	3	3
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukacmia	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	18	8	6	14	9	10	9	8	8	16
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	13	5	13	10	10	7	9	4	8	2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	6	5	9	4	5	2	6	6	7	11
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	4	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	4	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
32.	Other Defined and ill-defined disease	...	...	4	6	5	3	5	3	3	2	1	4
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	2	—	1	—	3	2	1	—	1	—
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	—	3	—	1	3	2	1	—	3	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES				69	40	57	42	54	41	44	32	50	46

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

General

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company in connection with the Joint Water Scheme for South West Northumberland took over the existing undertaking of the Haltwhistle Rural District Council on 1st April of this year. It is proposed that the Company will at some future date pipe additional water into the District by laying new mains and constructing additional service reservoirs.

Despite the abnormally dry summer, yields from the springs were sufficient to meet the demand, with the exception of the North Side Supply, water having to be carried for a number of weeks.

The bacteriological quality of the water dropped after the dry spell and constant sampling was undertaken by this Authority and the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Chlorination of the water supply is now being carried out and satisfactory results are being maintained.

Private supplies in many cases were insufficient to meet the consumption required. A number of requests were made for samples to be taken of springs to supplement the existing supply. In most cases, advantage was taken of grants obtainable through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Sewerage

The sewerage scheme to cover Longbyre was completed late in 1959 and the benefits of this will not be felt until all the properties are connected up. Not only will public health be improved but refuse collection will be eased and pollution of streams lessened.

It is hoped that in 1960 a start may be made on the next scheme to cover Melkridge.

PARISH	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	64	183	6	17
Coanwood ..	49	157	6	19
Featherstone ..	43	129	8	24
Greenhead ..	54	157	9	26
Haltwhistle	1,146	3,537	30	93
Hartleyburn ..	69	214	19	59
Henshaw ..	144	415	24	70
Melkridge ..	44	145	11	36
Plenmellor with Whitfield..	26	83	2	6
Slaggyford ..	58	181	1	3
Thirlwall ..	140	455	6	19
	1,837	5,656	122	372

Samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the following supplies and the appropriate steps were taken to eliminate contamination on the supplies where pollution was found :—

Date.	SUPPLY.	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result.
6/1/59	Chesters Farm, Collecting Chamber.	Private	7	Suspicious
	Chesters Farm, Collecting Chamber.	Private	14	Unsatisfactory
14/1/59	Dacre House, Gilsland Tap.	Private	1	Satisfactory
	Dacre House, Gilsland Tap.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Dacre House, Gilsland Tap, Cafe Kitchen	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
19/2/59	Thornhope Farm, No. 1 Collecting Chamber	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	No. 2 Collect'g Chamber	Private	2	Satisfactory
	Tap in Kitchen	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Chesters Farm, Collecting Chamber	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
3/3/59	Gilsland	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
4/3/59	1 Comb Hill Road, Kitchen Tap.	Public	5	Suspicious
16/3/59	Eals Gardens, Kitchen Tap.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Council Offices, Haltwhistle, Tap.	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
28/5/59	Todhillwood Farm, Collecting Chamber.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Tap in Kitchen	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
3/6/59	Shankfoot Farm, Land Spring.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Eals, Land Spring.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Eals, Land Spring.	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Roadside Reservoir. Land Spring	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
15/6/59	Henshaw, Outlet to Spring	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Tap, Henshaw Village	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Towhouse, Outlet from Spring	Public	5	Suspicious
	Farglow Farm, Collecting Chsmber.	Private	1	Satisfactory

Date.	SUPPLY.	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result.
24/6/59	Towhouse Green Collecting Chamber.	Public	17	Unsatisfactory
	Henshaw, Tap.	Public Public	5 180+	Suspicious Unsatisfactory
1/7/59	Henshaw, Pipe—Roadside Reservoir	Public	30	Unsatisfactory
	Storage Chamber	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Tap (Right)	Public	40	Unsatisfactory
	Tap (Left)	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
15/7/59	Henshaw, Source	Public	30	Unsatisfactory
	Spring	Public	20	Unsatisfactory
	Roadside Reservoir	Public	40	Unsatisfactory
	Tap (Right)	Public	50	Unsatisfactory
28/7/59	Birkshaw, Bardon Mill, Reservoir.	Private	25	Unsatisfactory
	Tap.	Private	8	Suspicious
	Whitfield, Tap, Co-op. Soc.	Private	180+	Unsatisfactory
5/8/59	Tap, Co-op. Soc. Estate Manager's House	Private Private	35 8	Unsatisfactory Suspicious
	Whitfield Estate, Spring	Private	35	Unsatisfactory
	Reservoir	Private	5	Suspicious
12/8/59	Maple Lodge, Birkshaw, Land Spring	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Towhouse, Outlet Pipe	Public	180+	Unsatisfactory
	Whitfield, Inlet No. 1 Chamber	Private	1	Satisfactory
	Source of Spring	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory.
2/9/59	Seatsides, Bardon Mill, Outlet Bore Hole	Private	1	Satisfactory
	Council Offices, Haltwhistle. Tap	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Sykehead, Haltwhistle. Tap.	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
8/9/59	Seatsides, Bardon Mill Steel, outlet pipe	Private	3	Suspicious
	Outlet from bore hole	Private	13	Unsatisfactory
	Cleughfoot, Haltwhistle, Source supply	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Gilsland, Tap, Slaughterhouse	Public	35	Unsatisfactory

Date.	SUPPLY.	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result.
23/9/59	Seatsides, Bardon Mill, Outlet from borehole Towhouse, No 1.	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Collecting Chamber	Public	50	Unsatisfactory
	Fern Bank, Gilsland, Tap.	Public	35	Unsatisfactory
	Slaughterhouse, Gilsland, Tap	Public	17	Unsatisfactory
29/9/59	Halton-lea-Gate, Tap, Temperance Farm	Public	5	Suspicious
	Gilsland, Wardrew, Main Spring,	Private	3	Suspicious
	Secondary Spring	Private	5	Suspicious
6/10/59	Henshaw, Source	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Source	Public	7	Suspicious
13/10/59	Wardrew, Gilsland, Main Spring	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Supplementary Spring	Private	Nil.	Satisfactory
28/10/59	Henshaw Source of Spring	Public	5	Suspicious
	Source of Spring	Public	5	Suspicious
	Council Offices, Tap	Public	90	Unsatisfactory
1/11/59	Birch Trees, Source, No 1 Spring	Public	5	Suspicious
	Source, No. 2 Spring	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Slaggyford, Collecting Chamber	Public	8	Suspicious
	Reservoir	Public	90	Unsatisfactory
	Halton-Lea-Gate, Collecting Chamber	Public	11	Unsatisfactory
23/11/59	Gilsland, Tap.	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory.
	Florondale, Greenhead, Tap.	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory
	Common House, North Road. Tap	Public	7	Suspicious
	Council Offices, Tap	Public	3	Suspicious
15/12/59	Slaggyford Garage, Kitchen Tap	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Temperance Farm, Halton Lea Gate			
	Kitchen Tap	Public	1	Satisfactory
	Sykehead, Haltwhistle Kitchen Tap	Public	3	Suspicious
	Council Offices, Tap	Public	Nil.	Satisfactory

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in this area.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat

A hundred per cent meat inspection in the district was maintained, despite the fact most of the meat inspection is carried out outside normal working hours, as slaughtering is usually done in the evenings.

There are four private slaughterhouses operating in the district, three in Haltwhistle and one in Gilsland. These have given no cause for complaint during the year.

A pleasing feature of the summary is the fact that no cases of Tuberculosis have been found in the cattle inspected, the only case occurring in a pig.

The amount of meat condemned has fallen to a total of 11 cwts., largely due to the decrease in the number of casualties slaughtered.

Arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat have been satisfactory.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	421	3	5	1,688	159	—
Number Inspected	421	3	5	1,688	159	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole Carcaes condemned ..	—	—	1	3	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	65	2	—	20	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	15.44	66.66	20.0	1.31	1.88	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	.64	—
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year :—

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (Home killed) Stones ..	15	—	—
Beef (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Mutton (Home Killed) „ ..	9	—	—
Mutton (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Pork (Home Killed) „ ..	2	—	—
Pork (Imported) „ ..	—	—	—
Offal (Home Killed) Lbs.	62	—	—
Game „ ..	—	—	—
Poultry „ ..	—	—	—
Fish „ ..	—	—	—
Sausages „ ..	—	—	—
Bacon „ ..	—	—	—
Cheese „ ..	—	—	—
Butter „ ..	—	—	—
Lard „ ..	—	—	—
Eggs, Frozen „ ..	—	—	—
Cooked Meat Tins ..	7	—	—
Fruit „ ..	—	—	—
Vegetables „ ..	—	—	—
Miscellaneous „ ..	—	—	—

Milk and Dairies

Number of Distributors of Milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—1954	7
Number Licensed for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk under the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—1954	3

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	23

The total number of premises registered for ice-cream was doubled during the year, this again being influenced by the weather, but it now seems a general practice for ice-cream to be sold from various different premises instead of, as in the past, usually at confectioners. In addition to ice-cream a number of shops also now sell frozen meat, fish and vegetables.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspection of food premises were made during the year and the occupiers of premises co-operated readily, complying with the various requirements. Informal action only being necessary.

Food Premises

The following shows the number of food premises, by type of business in the District :—

Butchers	..	..	..	..	7
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	5
Cafes	..	..	..	..	4
Snack Bars	..	..	..	..	2
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	3
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	2
General Stores	..	..	..	..	24
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	5
Hotels and Licensed Premises				..	19
Chemists	..	..	..	..	3
Sweets and Tobacconists	..	..	..	..	9

HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses completed during the year :—

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	3	1	4
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	2	2

Caravan Sites

The approval of two caravan sites in the District for approximately 70 caravans did not materially alter the housing situation, the caravan dwellers being, for the main part, employed at the Spadeadam Rocket Testing Site. Both sites have been provided with water supplies and W.C's. At the

larger of the two sites, Blenkinsopp Castle, the co-operation of the owner was obtained and a modern sanitary convenience block constructed, including hot and cold running water, showers for both sexes and a launderette.

The licensing of the two sites has prevented widespread stationing of single caravans making control easier.

1. ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES.

A. Houses Demolished.

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	4	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ..	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas :			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1) H.A. 57	17	—	—
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	9	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ..	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—
B. Unfit Houses Closed :			
	Number		
(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 ..	—	—	—
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, H.A. 1957	—	—	—
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, H.A. 1957	—	—	—
Other houses closed not included above	—	—	—

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied :

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by Local Authority	25	—
(12) After formal notice under :—		
(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
(b) Secs. 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957 ..	—	—
(13) Under Sec. 24, Housing Act, 1957 ..	5	—

2. FAMILIES REHOUSED DURING 1959.

Slum Clearance	4
Without Separate Homes	5
With Separate Homes	10
From Council Houses (Exchanges, etc.) ..	4

Over crowded Abated :

Statutory	6
Moral	3
Number of Outstanding applications for Council Houses on the Authorities list at year end ..	170

3. LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES.

Total Number of Houses owned by Local Authority	457
Number of Temporary Dwellings included above..	—

4. HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959—DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

	No. of Separate Houses
Applications submitted to Local Authority ..	12
Applications rejected	2
Applications approved.. .. .	10
Total number of applications approved since the inception of the scheme	175
No. of houses not included above, approved for grants under the Hill Farm & Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-54	6

Standard and Discretionary Grants

The number of Discretionary Grants is less than of previous years, this being due to a number of factors, some of them economic, and in addition, farmhouses and cottages are being renovated now mainly under grants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Advantages have been taken by private owners to carry out extensive repairs and renovations to houses closed under the Housing Act. In this way it has been possible to save structurally sound houses which were internally in a bad state of repair, badly arranged and lacking necessary amenities.

A number of enquiries have been received for Standard Grants and work started during the year, but non completed.

Standard Grant enquiries have largely been for the conversion of a third bedroom into a bathroom or for the provision of an internal W.C.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service carried out by direct labour has operated satisfactorily during the year despite absences due to sickness of workmen. Difficulties were also experienced due to the abnormal amount of wrapping paper etc., now to be disposed of. In addition the licensing of two caravan sites totalling 70 caravans has meant that two extra loads have had to be carried, one from each site, again these contained abnormal amount of paper.

Collections are made from most of the reasonably accessible properties in the District, twice weekly in Haltwhistle, and once per week in the remainder of the area. The total number of houses covered is approximately 2,050, plus 80 caravans.

The service was extended to cover the small hamlet around Lambley Station, and plans are under way for the collection of refuse from Whitfield, the last large area to be covered, approximately 70 properties will be served.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Vehicle with driver and two loaders is used in Haltwhistle and Plenmeller, and a 7 cubic yard Bedford vehicle with driver and one loader covers the more outlying parts of the district.

Sanitary pails are collected by the refuse collection staff from various parts of the district still without adequate sewerage systems. This unpleasant task is carried out as efficiently and with as little nuisance as possible. The provision of sewerage schemes in the villages at present without then is the only answer to this problem.

The completion of the Longbyre Sewerage Scheme serving approximately 45 houses will ease the position slightly in 1960.

LITTER

Opportunity was taken to obtain Anti-Litter posters and these were distributed widely throughout the district in the hope that the volume of litter deposited in the countryside would be reduced.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS, 1949

Work under this heading proceeded during the year.

A part-time Rodent Operator is employed but as he acts as spare driver, illness amongst the refuse collection staff reduces the effective time spent on this necessary service. Despite this fact no serious complaints of rat infestation occurred during the year, numerous treatments being carried out by the operator on Council Properties and private houses.

The report as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is given in the following table, this year it covers the period 31st March, 1959 to 31st December, 1959.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5) Agri- cultural
	Non-AGRICULTURAL				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc.Council Houses)	(3) All other (incl. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
Number of Properties in Local Authorities District	15	2,074	207	2,296	335
Number of Properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	2	19	14	35	—
(b) Survey under the Act ...	13	101	9	135	19
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose	—	92	90	182	45
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...	90	367	181	638	—
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats Major ...	3	—	—	3	—
Minor ...	3	39	8	50	12
(b) Mice Major ...	—	1	—	1	—
Minor ...	—	6	6	12	—
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	6	46	14	66	—
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	24	51	16	91	—
Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act :—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	2	2	—
(b) Structural Work— (<i>i.e.</i> , Proofing) ...	—	—	1	1	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
Number of ‘Block’ control Schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY

Sources closed or discontinued	1	No. of houses	..	..	Nil.
New Service provided :—					
(a) By Local Authority	Nil.	No. of Houses	..	..	Nil.
(b) By Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company	8	No. of Houses	..	..	8
(c) By Private Owner	6	No. of Houses	..	..	9

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections	..	..	..	..	64
Applications for Council Houses	..	..	..	..	133
House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959 (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	155
Housing General	..	..	..	..	23
Rent Act, 1957, Certificate of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	6
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	99
Drainage	..	..	..	..	108
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	92
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	41
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	129
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	239
Factories	..	..	..	..	35
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	94
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	24
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	49
Common Lodging House	..	..	..	..	11
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	264
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	77
TOTAL					<u>1,643</u>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	35	26	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	3	—	—
TOTAL	40	35	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act
Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111).

NATURE OF WORK (1)	SECTION 110.			SECTION 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing Apparel :—						
Making, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains & nets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture						
hangings ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
File making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and steel cables						
and chains ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel anchors						
and grapnels ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cart gear ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire						
nets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Racquet & Tennis balls	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or						
receptacles or parts						
thereof made wholly						
or partially of paper...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pea picking ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons						
etc. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket making ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chocolates & sweetmeats	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas						
stockings, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile weaving ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

